

ABC Evening News 1900-1930 (27 September 1971)

Harry Reasoner: One of the most dedicated organizations in the business of international spying is the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. One of the Agency's long-time spies has now turned against the kind of practices carried on by the CIA. He was interviewed today by ABC's Stephen Gear. Victor Marchetti spent 14 years with CIA before resigning 2 years ago. Since then he has written a novel highly critical of U.S. Intelligence operations. He says there's a real danger of spying on the home front, and he charges that military influence is much too great.

Marchetti: For example, I used to work on Soviet military matters prior to going up to the Executive Suite, and I worked in the Office of National Estimates which produces the highest form of U.S. Intelligence. When I would do an estimate on the Soviet anti-ballistic missile capabilities, there was a great deal of pressure put on me by the military services to say that the Soviets had ABM systems that they were deploying them. The reason they believed this is they wanted to develop and deploy their own system.

Gear: As a former CIA man, haven't you violated the code in a sense? Aren't you irritating your former employer?

Marchetti: Yes, I am. I got a phone call last week from a very high ranking Agency officer for whom I had worked at one time who felt duty bound to tip me off that I was now on the list. They viewed me as having gone over to the other side. I don't know what that means. I assume it means from conservative to liberal. And, he said that I am going to be in for a tough time during the next few months. My only answer was a fellow has to do what he feels is right. I don't mind them playing rough and a little dirty just as long as they generally stick to the rules and don't touch--don't bring any harm to any of my children or my family.

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REMARKS:		
<p><i>Re: Marchette</i></p> <p><i>Transcript of brief interview between ABC & Marchette which was on ABC evening news last night.</i></p> <p><i>This is apparently what prompted the comments at this morning's Executive Committee meeting.</i></p>		
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